



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention  
Division of Adolescent and School Health

April 2019

Dear Partners,

Tomorrow we join others around the country in recognizing April 10<sup>th</sup> as [National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day \(NYHAAD\)](#). NYHAAD was created in 2013 to educate the public about the national impact of HIV on youth and to highlight the work of young people to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In support of the day, DASH produced a [CDC.gov feature](#) and [NYHAAD Resources toolkit](#). The toolkit includes graphics, social media posts, and more to assist with your communications planning for this important day.

We recognize that youth are not just at risk for HIV and other STDs because of sexual behavior, but also because of substance use, experiences of violence, and mental health and suicide concerns. Although we have seen improvement in some sexual risk behaviors, there is still much work to be done to improve adolescent health.

We value the diversity of expertise that our partners bring, as DASH would not be as successful in reducing risks and increasing protective factors without it. Your work is pivotal in supporting youth and propelling them into a healthy adulthood.

The future of our nation's youth is further supported through the important work of our recipients to provide quality health education, connections to needed health services, and school environments that support students and help them feel safe and connected. Last month, we hosted staff from 21 of our cooperative agreement recipients from around the country. I would like to thank everyone who was able to join us in Atlanta to advance the work of improving the lives of our nation's youth.

In this issue of the *DASH Partner Update*, you will find a variety of new CDC and partner resources, in addition to upcoming events. For more information about DASH, check out our web site (<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth>) and follow us on Twitter ([@CDC\\_DASH](#)).

Best,

Kathleen

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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## What's New With DASH?

### Updates and Resources from CDC

- **Teens Linked to Care (TLC) Video:** TLC is a pilot project, resulting from a collaboration between CDC, The CDC Foundation, and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, which focuses on integrating prevention strategies to address substance use and sexual risk among youth in high-risk rural communities in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. [This recently released video](#) highlights successes of TLC program implementation.
- **New Success Story:** [The American Psychological Association's Respect Workshop](#), developed with CDC support, provides school staff with the knowledge and skills to make schools safe and supportive for LGBTQ students. Learn more in [DASH's new success story](#).
- **Program Guidance for Implementing School-Based HIV/STD Prevention:** [This resource](#) provides guidance to support work to reduce HIV, STDs, teen pregnancy, and related risk behaviors among middle school and high school students through sexual health education, access to sexual health services, and safe and supportive environments. Although initially developed to support recipients of CDC-DASH's five-year cooperative agreement ([PS18-1807](#)), any partner with common goals of improving adolescent health is highly encouraged to use this evidence-based model.
- [Policy Levers to Promote Access to and Utilization of Children's Mental Health Services: A Systematic Review](#). CDC recently published an article on the evaluation of policy approaches to increase the use of children's mental and behavioral health services.

### Recent DASH Publications

[Get Yourself Tested \(GYT\) goes to High School: Adapted STD Prevention Campaign and Associated Student Use of Clinic STD Testing Services](#) – This study presents findings from a pilot test to implement "GYT for High Schools" in Manley High School, a Chicago public high school, that used students and staff as the campaign planners and implementers. This article describes the GYT campaign adaptation and implementation process of the GYT intervention school and a comparison school. It also explains the impacts on student's preventive behaviors including, STD testing, knowledge of where to get tested, and intention to get tested for HIV and STDs.

["Is it really confidential?" A Content Analysis of Online Information About Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Adolescents](#) – This publication analyzes sexual and reproductive health content for adolescents and young adults on websites of organizations with a mission related to public health or clinical services. Messages about confidentiality were characterized, and their strengths and weaknesses identified to inform future health promotion information that has the potential to improve receipt of confidential SRH services among adolescents and young people.

### DASH Around Town

Connect with DASH staff at these upcoming events and meetings.

**April 10:** Dr. Kathleen Ethier will present on YRBS data and DASH programs and impact at a briefing organized by Advocates for Youth in Washington, D.C.

**April 24-May 1:** CDC-DASH, represented by Dr. Michelle Johns, will co-lead a workshop on April 30 from 9:30am-12:30pm at the [Pediatric Academic Societies 2019 Meeting](#) entitled, "It gets better when we make it better: Understanding and addressing the challenges faced by sexual and gender minority youth in clinical and school settings." This meeting brings together health care providers to improve the health and well-being of children worldwide.

**May 30-June 1:** Dr. Michelle Johns and Jack Andrzejewski will present at the [National LGBTQ Health Conference](#). This conference brings together scientists, public health professionals, and healthcare providers to discuss issues affecting the health and well-being of the LGBTQ community.

## Other News

### **Partner Resources** - Resources shared by our national partners:

- The National Coalition of STD Directors' (NCSD) [Adolescent Sexual Health Priority Resource Dissemination Toolkit](#) includes a suite of resources and social media posts to promote adolescent sexual health.
- Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS) released the latest edition of their annual [SIECUS State Profiles](#), a report detailing the state of sexuality education across the country.

### **Upcoming Health Observances**

- April is [Sexually Transmitted Diseases \(STD\) Awareness Month](#)
- April 10: [National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day](#)
- May is [National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month](#)
- May 12-18: [National Prevention Week](#)
- June is LGBT Awareness Month

For previous *DASH Partner Updates*, please visit the School Health Policy web page:

[https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/about/partner\\_updates.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/about/partner_updates.htm).

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